

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2004

**COMMISSIONERS SIGN FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH
GREATER COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Columbus, OH – At this morning's General Session, the Franklin County Commissioners signed an agreement earmarking \$112,500 for the support of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Franklin County's 2004 contribution goes to help finance the Chamber's "Columbus America Program." This program focuses on four strategic initiatives: workforce development, infrastructure improvement, entrepreneurship and marketing.

Board of Commissioners' President Arlene Shoemaker said, "Franklin County continues its commitment in support of the Chamber's economic development efforts. We've stipulated that this year's funding be spent primarily on marketing and business attraction efforts at the Chamber."

"We expect the Chamber to use this funding to continue targeting international markets in Asia and Europe to create businesses and jobs here in central Ohio," said Commissioner Dewey Stokes.

Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy stated that, "We need to create more jobs and attract more businesses to our community. Our partnership with the Chamber will help us do just that."

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